

**APPROVED JANUARY 28, 2009**

At 7:08 PM Chairman Charles Kimball called the meeting to order. Present were Pat Martel, Doug McElroy, Andy Kohlhofer, Mike Nygren, Rich Violette, Charles Kimball, and Recording Secretary Jeanne Nygren.

Kohlhofer asked the Budget Committee on some clarification of the proposed budget cut in the Highway Department by \$10,000.00. Martel has said the Committee made a motion to bring total to what it was the previous year, so they took \$5,000 out of Summer Equipment Hire, \$4,000 taken out of the Winter Equipment Hire and \$1,000 taken out of the Tree line. Kohlhofer then passed out a copy of some of the Budget Committee's recommended cuts for their review.

Kohlhofer asked regarding the School Budget if they have found the figure of the difference from what was budgeted for tuition and what was actually charged. What was budgeted for health benefits and what was paid and the \$700,000 was never returned to the town.

Nygren said they have never got a figure of what the actual tuition was as to the cost per student from the School.

School Board Representative Peg Pinkham then came into the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Martel said that we still don't have the agreement on the teacher's contract. Nygren noticed while referring to the figures in the book the tuition regular education line was \$2.8 million and they listed \$2.7 million in the book. Nygren said they are not supposed to change their figures on the requested figure.

Pinkham said the School Board had met and they have cut \$300,000 from the school budget. She didn't have her book with her and was trying to remember the areas involved. She said they stayed with 1/2 year for technology coordinator, health teacher, \$10,000. and salary reductions. She is waiting for her book to be dropped off to her so can finish their recommended cuts.

This will make the increase only \$800,000 in their proposed budget. The School Board just made this decision at last Thursday night's meeting. Pinkham will supply this paperwork on this Wednesday night's meeting of the Budget Committee.

Nygren said Kohlhofer brought up a couple of times during the budgetary process about the State mandates and that the Evergreen is new State law. Pinkham said the voters passed the contract that had an Evergreen clause in it. Nygren asked if this has expired. Pinkham said Evergreen protects the step process. Kohlhofer didn't think COLA was included in the Evergreen clause. Kohlhofer said once the contract ends there is only step increases and no COLA. Kohlhofer will take a look at this clause and get back to the Committee on the interpretation.

Kohlhofer then quoted the Town of Raymond at a .95% increase, which includes the teacher's contracts; he doesn't understand why ours is over 10%.

Pinkham said the actual amount voted on the tuition bill had a discrepancy between what they were charging and what was charged and there was an error just over the amount of \$10,000.00. Kohlhofer said what was approved at the annual meeting was less than what was charged. DRA is giving these figures to the School Department.

Nygren said the figures showed a difference and he asked what the tuition bill per student at Sanborn was. Pinkham said the increase next year that was presented was 11% increase on tuition that does not include capitol cost which brings it to 14%. She is going to have all these figures for the Committee.

Kohlhofer feels the Town needs to say that the vote on the contract was illegal and therefore is not valid. Pinkham said we are being held to this and if the Town or Budget Committee wants to pay to challenge they would need to pay for legal fees to challenge the contract. Pinkham said we are being held to that contract.

Pinkham said the School Board just had a resignation and has two positions open for anyone interested in running for these positions.

**1100-Regular Education**-Kohlhofer said on page 17 in teacher's salaries he went through the number of students and redid the calculation of figures that you could cut 2 teachers and 2 classrooms without overcrowding the classrooms. With a total of 55 students in 4 classrooms if one was eliminated this would give you a classroom to be available for Special Ed or anything you wanted to keep things in house. You could reduce salary line by \$36,000 plus health insurance, FICA and retirement. Also in the second grade you could basically do the same to eliminate the classroom, salary, etc.

McElroy asked what was the average ratio. Nygren said the ratios asked previously showed the figure was 20 to 24 per classroom but we haven't seen this at all. Gifted and Talented are paid by grants but you can take this out of the salary line total. Nygren said it is difficult to do a budget without the updated figures to calculate the savings.

Martel figured by taking all the health insurance cost and the head count, that \$11,800 is the average for health insurance per person.

Kohlhofer asked what is the computer teacher teaching in the first grade. Pinkham said basic skills, how you learn and how they get their information thru technology is now computer based. The students are being required to access their information.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to cut regular education from line 10-1100-5112-10-00000 Teacher's Salaries through line 10-1100-10-00000 retirement, FICA and health insurance by \$301,008.00, this was seconded by Martel. The vote was 5-2. The vote was approved.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to reduce line 10-1100-5610-10-00000 Supplies by \$1,154.00; 10-1100-5641-10-00000 Reference Books line reduce by \$200.00; 10-1100-5731-10-00000 New Instruct Equipment line reduce by \$11,447.00; 10-1100-5733-10-00000 New Furniture line reduce by \$2,721.00 and line 10-1100-5734-10-00000 New Computer Equipment reduce by \$500.00 and this motion was seconded by Violette. The vote was 5-2. The total reduction on all these lines was \$16,022.

The Budget Committee wanted to wait in making any decision on the Test materials-10-1100-5615-10-00000 until after Pinkham brings in the updated spending figures.

Pinkham questioned the understanding in cutting going off these figures next year or from an economical point. Martel said economical. Pinkham needed to understand the reasoning. Kohlhofer said this was also done with the Town budget.

**1200-Special Education**-In Special Education Kimball asked why there are so many aides. Pinkham said we are an all inclusive school now and a teacher's job today has many challenges. The individuals due to their own needs are the reasons there are lower ratios and that is why aides are needed. Teachers are to do more. They are assigned aides and has to do with their IEPs.

Kohlhofer said we are only getting \$5000 in funds from the Federal Government. Pinkham said age 2 1/2 children and up are identified and we have to address their education. Kohlhofer stated Pre K the State mandated this was a voluntary program. NH participated and this was mandatory for all schools to provide Pre K and if so the State needs to pay for it. Pinkham said if this is cut, then the only place to put this is in regular education. Kohlhofer would propose cutting these salaries and the State should pay for it.

under Article 28A. Nygren said Hudson did this. Salem is going to institute a kindergarten. Nygren feels if you choose to adopt it, then you own it.

McElroy asked if anyone has ever tested the State mandates. Kohlhofer said no, just now they have been challenged.

Martel looked at the difference in the number of teachers from the number of positions and wanted to take out the two positions that were empty under aids but Pinkham said they have hired two paraprofessionals for this position.

A motion in was made by Violette to reduce line 10-1200-5734-10-00000 Special Education New Sped Computer Equipment by \$500.00 bring the amount back to last years figure on this line, and the grand total to be \$1,574,140.60, this was seconded by McElroy. The vote was 6-1. The vote passed.

Gifted Talented-1270-Pinkham said there are only 3 with a written IEP for Gifted and Talented Program. A motion to cut \$78,393.00 and on page 94, the 2 positions that are listed under the Gifted and Talented. Pinkham had requested to eliminate this position. She also said that 10% are directly benefited. The School Board voted to keep this position in.

**1270-Gifted and Talented**-A motion to take out 1270 the Gifted and Talented program was made by Violette, seconded McElroy, all were in favor. 7-0.

The Committee will hold on the other program recommendations until they get a copy of the contract. Pinkham will get clarification on which programs are contracted.

**1400-Other Programs**-A motion to reduce 10-1400-5112-10-00000 Athletic salaries by \$17,600.00; line 10-1400-5220-10-00000 FICA reduce by \$1346.00; line 10-1400-5314-10-00000 Athletic Officials by \$3000.00; line 10-1400-5520-10-00000 Sports Insurance reduce by \$700.00; line 10-1400-5590-10-00000 Assembly Program reduce by \$1500.00; line 10-1400-5731-10-00000 New Program Equipment reduce by \$2828.00; for a total of \$26,974. and a grand total of \$26,974.00 in 1400-Other Program was made by Kohlhofer and seconded by Martel. The vote was 5-2. The vote passed.

McElroy wanted Pinkham to find out about the grant funded positions that were listed on page 94 under Special Education and she will come back with the answer at the next meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kimball, seconded by McElroy. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jeanne Nygren  
Recording Secretary